



# **California Judicial Council/ Administrative Office of the Courts**

## **Court Interpreter**

### **English/Foreign Language Written Examination**

# **SAMPLE**

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## **EXAMINATION HINTS**

Read carefully and follow the directions provided.

Read each question completely before answering.

Do not spend too much time on any one question.

No question is meant to be a “trick” or “catch” question.

Interpret words according to their generally accepted meanings.

Attempt to answer every question. If you are not sure of the correct answer, mark the one which you think is best. There is no penalty for guessing. Your score is based on the number of correct answers.

Check carefully to be sure you have not skipped any pages. Be sure you have answered all the test items.

Plan your time so that you may complete the examination within the time allowance. You will be told when to start and stop. If you have extra time, check your work.

Relax and work steadily.

**IT IS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT SURE OF THE ANSWER.**

**CPS HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES**  
**for**  
**THE CALIFORNIA JUDICIAL COUNCIL/**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS**

**COURT INTERPRETER**  
**ENGLISH/FOREIGN LANGUAGE SAMPLE WRITTEN EXAMINATION**

| <b>Section</b> | <b>Description</b>                       | <b>Questions</b> |
|----------------|--|------------------|
| 1              | ENGLISH VOCABULARY                       | 20 (10 Samples)  |
| 2              | FOREIGN LANGUAGE VOCABULARY              | 20 (0 Samples)   |
| 3              | ENGLISH GRAMMAR AND WORD USAGE           | 20 (10 Samples)  |
| 4              | FOREIGN LANGUAGE GRAMMAR AND WORD USAGE  | 20 (0 Samples)   |
| 5              | READING COMPREHENSION – ENGLISH          | 15 (5 Samples)   |
| 6              | READING COMPREHENSION – FOREIGN LANGUAGE | 15 (0 Samples)   |
| 7              | ENGLISH TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE VOCABULARY   | 15 (5 Samples)   |
| 8              | FOREIGN LANGUAGE TO ENGLISH VOCABULARY   | 15 (5 Samples)   |
| 9              | FOREIGN LANGUAGE SENTENCE TRANSLATION    | 15 (5 Samples)   |

Total 155 (40 Samples)

**TIME ALLOWANCE: 4 HOURS, 15 MINUTES**

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## SECTION 1

### ENGLISH VOCABULARY

#### PART I: CHOOSING THE CORRECT WORD OR PHRASE

**DIRECTIONS:** The following questions are designed to measure your vocabulary skills. For each word **in bold type**, select the definition from the choices provided (**a, b, c, or d**) **that means the same or nearly the same**. Darken the box on your answer sheet corresponding to the single best answer for each of the following questions.

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1. **proclivity**

- a. modesty
- b. intensity
- c. tendency
- d. stubbornness

2. **expunge**

- a. expel
- b. delete
- c. extract
- d. withdraw

3. **recuse**

- a. refer
- b. indict
- c. refuse
- d. disqualify

4. **derisive**

- a. jeering
- b. divisive
- c. complimentary
- d. abrasive

5. **dilettante**

- a. liar
- b. amateur
- c. debutante
- d. perfectionist

## PART II: ANTONYMS

**DIRECTIONS:** The following questions are designed to measure your vocabulary skills. For each word in **bold type**, select the definition from the choices provided (**a**, **b**, **c**, or **d**) that **means the opposite or nearly the opposite**. Darken the box on your answer sheet corresponding to the single best answer for each of the following questions.

---

6. **berate**

- a. scold
- b. praise
- c. confuse
- d. dissuade

7. **serendipity**

- a. gaiety
- b. gloom
- c. chance
- d. destiny

8. **defile**

- a. save
- b. guard
- c. respect
- d. attack

9. **reticent**

- a. eager
- b. reflexive
- c. taciturn
- d. mournful

10. **eminent**

- a. ignorant
- b. lowly
- c. prominent
- d. knowledgeable

PLEASE CONTINUE WORKING



## SECTION 2

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE VOCABULARY

#### PART I: CHOOSING THE CORRECT WORD OR PHRASE

**DIRECTIONS:** The following questions are designed to measure your Foreign Language vocabulary skills. For each word **in bold type**, choose the definition from the choices provided (**a, b, c, or d**) **that means the same or nearly the same**. Darken the box on your answer sheet corresponding to the single best answer for each of the following questions.

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#### PART II: ANTONYMS

**DIRECTIONS:** The following questions are designed to measure your vocabulary skills. For each word **in bold type**, select the definition from the choices provided (**a, b, c, or d**) **that means the opposite or nearly the opposite**. Darken the box on your answer sheet corresponding to the single best answer for each of the following questions.

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PLEASE CONTINUE WORKING

### SECTION 3

#### ENGLISH GRAMMAR AND WORD USAGE

**DIRECTIONS:** The following questions are designed to measure your knowledge of correct grammar and word usage. For each question, select the **best version of the underlined part of the sentence**. Choice “a” is the same as the underlined portion of the original sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose answer “a.” Darken the box on your answer sheet corresponding to the single best answer for each of the following questions.

Example:

In another study of TV violence indicated that the outcomes were as important as the amount of violence.

- a. In another study of TV violence
- b. Another study of TV violence
- c. Studying TV violence
- d. TV violence studied

the correct answer is b

---

21. Many are of the opinion that Cervantes’ *Don Quixote de la Mancha* is not only Cervantes’ greatest novel but the greatest novel of the Foreign Language literature that was ever written.
- a. but the greatest novel of the Foreign Language literature that was ever written
  - b. but also the greatest novel ever written in Foreign Language
  - c. rather it is the greatest novel that was ever written in Foreign Language literature
  - d. rather it is the greatest novel ever written in Foreign Language
22. Traveling is one of the most enjoyable ways to learn about different cultures.
- a. Traveling is one of the
  - b. To travel is one of the
  - c. Travels are one of the
  - d. The travel is one of

23. One measure of a person's true patience is whether she demonstrates patience towards everybody or just towards them who are in a position of superiority.
- a. patience towards everybody or just towards them
  - b. patience for everybody or just for those
  - c. patience to everyone or just to them
  - d. patience towards everyone or just towards those
24. Since he is often at a loss for words, he takes to writing down his ideas before any interview, and that has been the perfect solution.
- a. he takes to writing down
  - b. he will take to write down
  - c. he has taken to writing down
  - d. he took to write down
25. Fifty years ago no one could have imagined how much influence television would have on our lives.
- a. television would have on our lives
  - b. television had on our lives
  - c. television was to have had on our lives
  - d. the television would have on our lives

**DIRECTIONS:** The following items are designed to measure your knowledge of word usage. For each item, select the sentence that **contains a word used incorrectly**. Darken the box on your answer sheet corresponding to your answer choice.

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26.    a.    I can't understand why they won't let Bob and me continue working on the project.  
      b.    When in doubt, one should always ask.  
      c.    We were each given a disparate number of blocks to arrange as we saw fit.  
      d.    If people would just look inside of themselves, they would find that they do have the necessary courage to face any adversity.
27.    a.    As expected, the probation officer's report went into great detail about his extensible criminal record.  
      b.    I wish I were going to the lavish reception at the country club.  
      c.    These very techniques have been used on autistic children with excellent results.  
      d.    By helping new employees overcome the deficiencies noted in their job review, we have been able to retain promising, but inexperienced, workers.
28.    a.    He won't have us around the next time he has to face an irate customer!  
      b.    The field of sunflowers waving in the sun was an absolutely beautiful sight to behold.  
      c.    He told her that irregardless of her personal feelings, they expected her to treat Susan courteously.  
      d.    Because the first lecture had been exceedingly boring, she decided that it would be a waste of time to return the following week.
29.    a.    Foreigners often have some difficulty using reflective pronouns correctly.  
      b.    The opulent accommodations left nothing to be desired.  
      c.    I had never seen anyone operate a loom so dexterously.  
      d.    Dawn's caustic comments made everyone feel uncomfortable.

- 30.
- a. The home's pulchritude was readily apparent; the floors gleamed, the décor was impeccable, nothing was out of place.
  - b. The applicants were instructed to indicate the county in which they are located and to state whether the funds would be used for educational purposes.
  - c. When buying such capacious cutlery, you must try to avail yourself of a true expert who can advise you.
  - d. Once we have finished inspecting the premises we will be in a better position to determine the clubhouse's value.

## SECTION 4

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE GRAMMAR AND WORD USAGE

**DIRECTIONS:** The following questions are designed to measure your knowledge of grammar and word usage in Foreign Language. Each question consists of four (4) sentences, three (3) of which are correct and one (1) of which contains one or more errors in grammar, verb tense, singular or plural word form, spelling, or placement or omission of an accent. Select the sentence (**a, b, c, or d**) **that contains one or more errors** and darken the corresponding box on your answer sheet.

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PLEASE CONTINUE WORKING

## SECTION 5

### READING COMPREHENSION - ENGLISH

**DIRECTIONS:** The following questions are designed to measure your ability to read and understand written material. Each reading passage is followed by one or more questions about the material you have read. Base your answers only on the material you have read and **not** on any prior knowledge you may have of any of the topics addressed.

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In 1822, Sir Robert Peel, England's new Home Secretary, contended that while better policing could not eliminate crime, the poor quality of police contributed to social disorder. Seven years later he introduced and guided through Parliament the "Act for Improving the Police In and Near the Metropolis." This led to the first organized British Metropolitan Police Force. Structured along the lines of a military unit, the force of 1,000 was the first to wear a definite uniform. The men were commanded by two magistrates, later called commissioners, who were given administrative but not judicial duties. Ultimately, the responsibility for equipping, paying and maintaining, and to a certain degree supervising the "bobbies," as they later became known, was vested in the Home Secretary. Because he was made accountable to the Parliament "for the exercise of his authority over the metropolitan police," it could be said that the new force was under the ultimate control of a democratically elected Parliament.

36. According to the passage,
- a. law enforcement failed before 1820 because, until then, the freedom of action of the individual was irreconcilable with the security of persons and property.
  - b. magistrate judges, who were later called commissioners, commanded the British Metropolitan Police Force, but a certain degree of supervision was vested in the Home Secretary.
  - c. ultimately it was Parliament that was in charge of equipping, paying, and maintaining the British Metropolitan Police Force.
  - d. in 1822, Britain's Home Secretary asserted that poor police quality added to social disorder, but he also recognized that better policing would not eliminate crime.

37. According to the passage,
- a. it was decided that the men of the British Metropolitan Police Force should wear a definite uniform so that their structure would be more like that of a military unit.
  - b. in 1822, a democratically elected Parliament had recently appointed Sir Robert Peel as England's Home Secretary, who would seven years hence organize the first British Metropolitan Police Force.
  - c. seven years after assuming the position of British Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel would introduce and guide through Parliament the "Act for Improving the Police In and Near the Metropolis."
  - d. the "Act for Improving the Police In and Near the Metropolis" led to the creation of the first British police force. It was structured along the lines of a military unit and was 1,000 men strong.



The problem of human freedom and free will has been somewhat alleviated by new discoveries in physics. Because the world seems to be governed, in part, by chance instead of by precise, fixed laws, a totally deterministic view of human beings and nature no longer seems reasonable. Some thinkers feel that Quantum Mechanics allows human freedom to exist, but it is unlikely that this statement can be conclusively supported by science.

Many people feel that science should be able to answer all questions. However, it is probably a narrow view to expect that the “scientific method” is the only way of learning and knowing. There may well be other ways of knowing. After all, science was invented by human beings and is based on the assumption that there actually *is* a physical world out there beyond our senses. All that we know about this physical world comes in through our senses and is “processed” and interpreted by our minds. Niels Bohr, who in 1922 was awarded the Nobel Prize for developing a new model for the hydrogen atom, believed very strongly that humans always occupied the central position. He said that it was impossible to distinguish sharply between the phenomena themselves and our conscious perception of them. To view science as having an existence independent of human beings is misleading. Science is a human creation, and it is a beautiful and admirable creation. It should be recognized for what it is, however, we should not expect too much of it.

38. According to the passage,

- a. we should not expect too much of science because the scientific method only offers us a narrow way of learning and knowing.
- b. new discoveries in physics have shown us that it would be totally unrealistic for us to adopt a deterministic view of humans and nature.
- c. when Niels Bohr developed a new model for the hydrogen atom, he believed that humans always occupied the central position relative to the way the world is perceived.
- d. our mind processes and interprets all of the information about the physical world that we receive through our senses.

39. According to the passage,

- a. we have been misled into believing that science can have an existence independent of human beings.
- b. it is our conscious perception of the phenomena that gives them their characteristics, which we classify according to our sense of smell, sight, touch, etc.
- c. although many people feel that science should be able to answer all questions, the truth of the matter is that there may very well be other ways of knowing.
- d. human beings invented science in order to be able to more clearly define the phenomena that exist beyond what our immediate senses can perceive, process, and interpret.

40. According to the passage,

- a. human beings have been able to arrive at the assumption that there is a physical world based on the information we perceive through our senses.
- b. because science is merely a human creation, we cannot expect it to ever be able to answer the profound and extremely complex questions relative to human freedom and free will.
- c. Quantum Mechanics has allowed us to learn that the world seems to be governed, in part, by chance instead of by precise, fixed laws.
- d. science is a beautiful and admirable human creation which is based on the assumption that there actually is a physical world out there beyond our senses.

## SECTION 6

### READING COMPREHENSION - FOREIGN LANGUAGE

**DIRECTIONS:** The following questions are designed to measure your ability to read and understand written material. Each reading passage is followed by one or more questions about the material you have read. Base your answers only on the material you have read and **not** on any prior knowledge you may have of any of the topics addressed.

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PLEASE CONTINUE WORKING

## SECTION 7

### ENGLISH TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE VOCABULARY

**DIRECTIONS:** The following questions are designed to measure your language skills. For each English word **in bold type**, select the definition from the choices provided (**a, b, c, or d**) **that means the same or nearly the same** in Foreign Language. Darken the box on your answer sheet corresponding to the single best answer for each of the following questions.

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- 46.     **to retch**
- 47.     **midwife**
- 48.     **stump**
- 49.     **to deplete**
- 50.     **bone marrow**

## SECTION 8

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE TO ENGLISH VOCABULARY

**DIRECTIONS:** The following questions are designed to measure your language skills. For each Foreign Language word **in bold type**, select the definition from the choices provided (**a**, **b**, **c**, or **d**) **that means the same or nearly the same** in English. Darken the box on your answer sheet corresponding to the single best answer for each of the following questions.

---

51. *Foreign Language Word*

- a. stiff
- b. numb
- c. crippled
- d. shortened

52. *Foreign Language Word*

- a. hoof
- b. poison
- c. stinger
- d. draught

53. *Foreign Language Word*

- a. concoction
- b. measurement
- c. pestle
- d. poultice

54. *Foreign Language Word*

- a. snoring
- b. dryness
- c. irritation
- d. hoarseness

55. *Foreign Language Word*

- a. harmful
- b. lazy
- c. indolent
- d. long-lasting

## SECTION 9

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE SENTENCE TRANSLATION

**DIRECTIONS:** The following questions are designed to measure your knowledge of Foreign Language cognates and your ability to select correct translations. Each of the following items contains a sentence followed by four possible translations of the sentence. **You are to select the best translation for each sentence** from the choices provided (**a, b, c, or d**) and darken the corresponding box on your answer sheet.

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- 56. Contrary to our expectations, the guardian's gratuitous, malicious remarks did not result in the child's removal from his guardianship or in any other type of penalty or sanction.
- 57. He was such a vicious character that no one dared get close to him.
- 58. Aside from being an alumnus of a very prestigious university, he's quite affluent.
- 59. The defense attorney's final argument was not consistent with his client's testimony.
- 60. The defendant offered an apology to the family of the deceased victim with the hope of getting a life sentence instead of the death penalty.

**Answers for the Court Interpreter  
Sample Written Examination**

**Section 1 English Vocabulary**

**Part I – Choosing the Correct Word or Phrase**

- 1. c. tendency
- 2. b. delete
- 3. d. disqualify
- 4. a. jeering
- 5. b. amateur

**Part II – Antonyms**

- 6. b. praise
- 7. d. destiny
- 8. c. respect
- 9. a. eager
- 10. b. lowly

**Section 2 Foreign Language Vocabulary**

**Part I – Choosing the Correct Word or Phrase**

- 11. a.
- 12. b.
- 13. d.
- 14. c.
- 15. a.

**Part II – Antonyms**

- 16. c.
- 17. a.
- 18. b.
- 19. c.
- 20. d.

THIS COMPLETES THE SAMPLE TEST



### Section 3 English Grammar and Word Usage

- 21. b. but also the greatest novel ever written in Foreign Language
- 22. a. Traveling is one of the
- 23. d. patience towards everyone or just towards those
- 24. c. he has taken to writing down
- 25. a. television would have on our lives
- 26. d. If people would just look inside of themselves, they would find that they do have the necessary courage to face any adversity.

*...look inside of themselves...*

- 27. a. As expected, the probation officer's report went into great detail about his extensible criminal record.

*...about his extensive criminal...*

- 28. c. He told her that irregardless of her personal feelings, they expected her to treat Susan courteously.

*...told her that regardless...*

- 29. a. Foreigners often have some difficulty using reflective pronouns correctly.

*...difficulty using reflexive pronouns...*

- 30. c. When buying such capacious cutlery, you must try to avail yourself of a true expert who can advise you.

*...incorrect usage of capacious...means "spacious"...*

#### **Section 4 Foreign Language Grammar And Word Usage**

- 31. c.
- 32. b.
- 33. a.
- 34. a.
- 35. d.

### Section 5 Reading Comprehension - English

36. d. in 1822, Britain's Home Secretary asserted that poor police quality added to social disorder, but he also recognized that better policing would not eliminate crime.

*Sentence 1: "In 1822, Sir Robert Peel, England's new Home Secretary, contended that while better policing could not eliminate crime, the poor quality of police contributed to social disorder."*

37. c. seven years after assuming the position of British Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel would introduce and guide through Parliament the "Act for Improving the Police In and Near the Metropolis."

*Sentence 2: "Seven years later he introduced and guided through Parliament the 'Act for Improving the Police In and Near the Metropolis'..."*

38. d. our mind processes and interprets all of the information about the physical world that we receive through our senses.

*Paragraph 2: "All that we know about this physical world comes in through our senses..."*

39. c. although many people feel that science should be able to answer all questions, the truth of the matter is that there may very well be other ways of knowing.

*Paragraph 2: "However, it is probably a narrow view to expect...There may well be other ways of knowing."*

40. d. science is a beautiful and admirable human creation which is based on the assumption that there actually is a physical world out there beyond our senses.

*Paragraph 2: "...science was invented by human beings...there actually is a physical world out there beyond our senses."*

### Section 6 Reading Comprehension - Foreign Language

41. a.  
42. a.  
43. d.  
44. c.  
45. a.

### **Section 7 English to Foreign Language Vocabulary**

- 46. d.
- 47. a.
- 48. b.
- 49. b.
- 50. a.

### **Section 8 Foreign Language to English Vocabulary**

- 51. c. crippled
- 52. b. poison
- 53. a. concoction
- 54. d. hoarseness
- 55. a. harmful

## Section 9 Foreign Language Sentence Translation

The following tables contain *some*, but not necessarily *all*, of the errors that appear in the unacceptable translations.

56. a.

| Original Text | One Acceptable Foreign Language Translation | One Unacceptable Foreign Language Translation |
|---------------|---|---|
| gratuitous    |   |   |
| removal       |   |   |
| guardianship  |   |   |
|               |   |   |
|               |   |   |
|               |   |   |
|               |   |   |

57. b.

| Original Text | One Acceptable Foreign Language Translation | One Unacceptable Foreign Language Translation |
|---------------|---|---|
| vicious       |   |   |
| character     |   |   |
|               |   |   |
|               |   |   |

58. a.

| Original Text | One Acceptable Foreign Language Translation | One Unacceptable Foreign Language Translation |
|---------------|---|---|
| alumnus       |   |   |
| prestigious   |   |   |
| affluent      |   |   |
|               |   |   |

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59. c.

| <b>Original Text</b> | <b>One Acceptable<br/>Foreign Language<br/>Translation</b> | <b>One Unacceptable<br/>Foreign Language<br/>Translation</b> |
|----------------------|--|--|
| final argument       |  |  |
| not consistent       |  |  |
|                      |  |  |

60. b.

| <b>Original Text</b> | <b>One Acceptable<br/>Foreign Language<br/>Translation</b> | <b>One Unacceptable<br/>Foreign Language<br/>Translation</b> |
|----------------------|--|--|
| offered an apology   |  |  |
| life sentence        |  |  |
|                      |  |  |
|                      |  |  |

THIS COMPLETES THE SAMPLE TEST